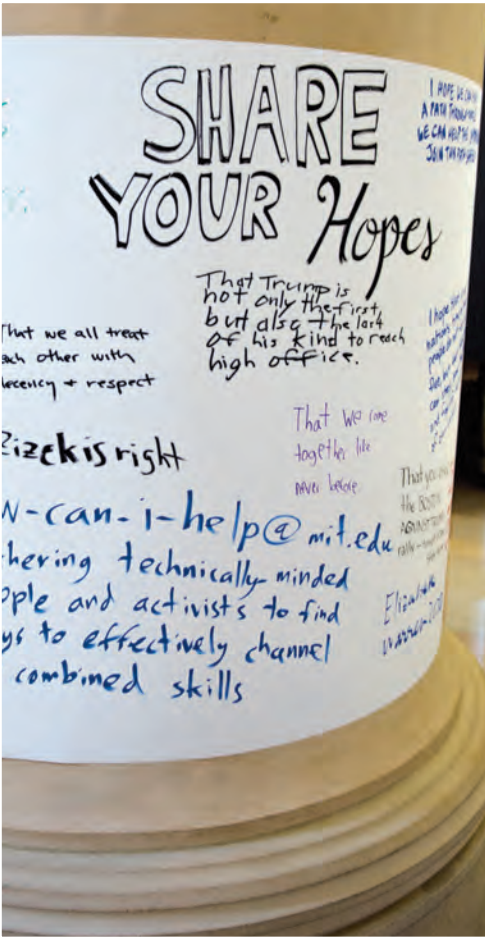
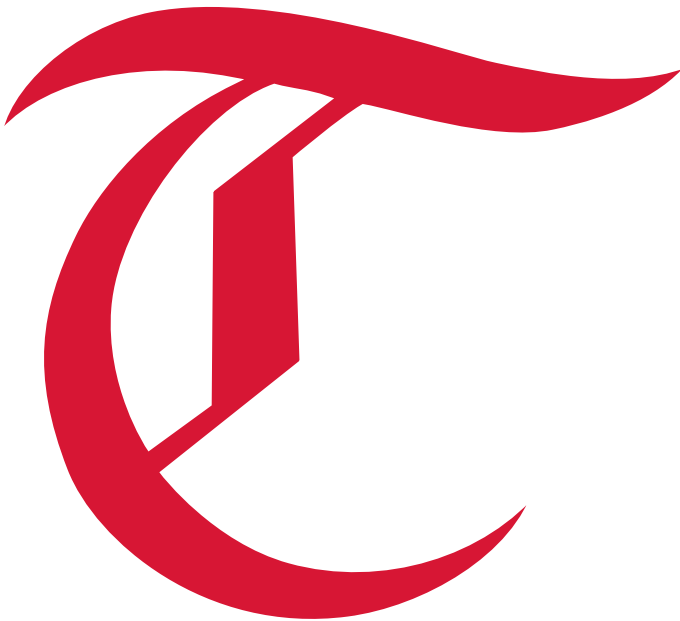




# THE TECH



# 2016 IN REVIEW

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In 2016, MIT turned its focus outward, developing new ways to take action on research, elaborating on the part of the Institute's mission that commits it to "bring knowledge to bear on the world's greatest challenges." Within MIT, students took action to engage the administration on issues of identity, politics, and student life.

The first *Tech* headlines of 2016 reported events that would play small parts in long-running stories: the end of a 116-day long sit-in that pro-divestment student activists had staged outside President Reif's office, the launch of a new undergraduate fund for innovation, the decision by UA Council not to endorse a set of recommendations from the Black Students' Union, and the appointment of Suzy Nelson as vice president for student life.

This past year, MIT reaffirmed its decision not to divest its endowment from fossil fuel companies and sought common ground with student climate activists who, unsatisfied with the Climate Action Plan, lobbied the administration to reconsider. Vice President for Research Maria T. Zuber stressed a belief that divestment would preclude en-

gagement with industry, while partnerships would enable faster progress on clean energy technologies.

Two months later, MIT announced that "health of the planet" was one of six pillars that would be targeted by the Campaign for a Better World, which emerged from its quiet phase in May with \$2.6 billion already donated or pledged. The pillars of the campaign, which seeks \$5 billion in total, also include the "MIT Core" (financial aid, new residential spaces, and research facilities on campus), education in the 21st century, human health, fundamental scientific research, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

With the launch of The Engine and the agreement to redevelop the 14-acre Volpe campus, MIT situated itself to develop a regional innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem over the long term. Together with the continuing construction of MIT.nano, expected to be completed in 2018, and the development of Kendall Square, MIT is building on the vision articulated by President Reif in 2015: to support the development of breakthrough technologies built on new science.

MIT defines itself by its commitment to tackling challenging problems. This year, some of those issues were internal to our

own community. Sporadic dialogue, largely driven by students, addressed how race, gender, and class affect an individual's experience at MIT. The Black Students' Union sought broad support for a set of recommendations to improve the experience of minority students at MIT, and two students replicated a 1999 study and released their own survey on "The Status of Undergraduate Women at MIT." These initiatives were student-driven; to take hold, they need sustained support from those at MIT who can institutionalize the ideas that emerged.

Changes to student life came as a result of unexpected dorm closures. Due to problems with its infrastructure, New House was slated to close partially for renovation. A plan for how current New House residents will be relocated to other dorms is expected this month. In June, Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart announced that Senior House would not house freshman this academic year. The decision, prompted by a comparatively low four-year graduation rate for members of Senior House and allegations of illegal drug use, was made without consulting members of the dorm and shook students from all over campus. Letters poured into *The Tech*; one of them can be found in this Year in Review.

Dormant political groups reemerged in

a year with a divisive presidential campaign as the MIT Democrats and the MIT College Republicans both organized after periods of inactivity. Students held voter registration drives, volunteered for campaigns, and made calls to voters. After the election, student groups organized a Solidarity Rally to demonstrate support for MIT's values.

The change in White House administration hit MIT very close to home when President Donald J. Trump's executive order banning immigration from seven countries temporarily trapped two students outside the U.S. on the eve of a new semester. Administrators, faculty, and students condemned the order while working to bring the students back, and President Reif pledged that MIT will continue to take action to uphold its values where it can be effective.

Journalist and screenwriter Ben Hecht once said that trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock. Single events rarely convey the whole story. The Year in Review is one chance to step back and see the larger picture, how those individual events collectively create change.

— Katherine Nazemi  
Volume 136 Editor in Chief







# Love still trumps hate

By Bennett McIntosh

November 9, 2016

For what it’s worth, most of America didn’t vote for Donald Trump. As of this writing, 200,000 more votes have been cast for Clinton than for Trump, with more than six million going to other candidates.

And for what it’s worth, most of America fears Donald Trump. Exit polls show fifty-eight percent of voters were concerned or scared by the prospect of a Trump presidency. Millions feared Donald Trump, yet voted for him anyway.

Although the majority of Americans feared a Trump presidency, those who were the reason for that fear are emboldened: white nationalist militias, hate groups like the KKK, the proudly self-proclaimed “deplorables” of the rising alt-Right. They will claim a mandate.

Of course, hate has no mandate – many who voted for Trump did so for many other reasons. To appoint a judge who would end a perceived massacre of the unborn. To pro-

tect guns or coal jobs that Democrats have caricatured as irredeemable foes. To give, as *LA Times* columnist Vincent Bevens said of both Brexit and Trump’s candidacy, “very wrong answers to legitimate questions that urban elites have refused to ask for thirty years.” In particular, who is benefitting from globalization and economic growth, and what do we do for those left behind?

**Hate has no mandate – many who voted for Trump did so for many other reasons.**

It is not only by their own failings that the elite organs of American democracy – government, journalism, science, and academia – have lost the faith of 60 million Trump voters (and many others besides). Terrorists, partisan press, climate denialists, free-market zealots, and every other kind of cynic and Machiavellian have always found

money or power in warping legitimate fears to sow division and doubt.

**Have faith in our democratic institutions; run for office and fight with every remaining legal and democratic tool we have to protect others’ rights.**

Now, let’s meet division with dialogue, doubt with faith. Have faith in your friends and family: perhaps love for an individual will overturn fear of the faceless other. Have faith in those who tell truth to power: perhaps your ACLU donation or newspaper subscription will fuel a candle in the darkness. Have faith in our democratic institutions; run for office and fight with every remaining legal and democratic tool we have to protect others’ rights.

And religious faith? I long ago drifted from the Methodism of my childhood, but today I recall Christ’s and Wesley’s calls for radical love – a love of action, understanding, and solidarity; a love of building bridges and of fighting fiercely for your fellow human and your planet.

“Don’t mourn, fight like hell,” said Wednesday morning’s Mother Jones headline. Fight hate with radical love that says to immigrants, and refugees, and people of color, and religious minorities, and all who fear Trump’s America, “I will stand with you and defend your life, your rights, your humanity.” A radical love that says to those so disillusioned they thought Trump alone could fix it, “I will cross lines of state and class and religion to ensure that your voice is heard by more than hateful demagogues.”

There will always be men like Trump. There must always be many men and women who stand together – not uniform, but unified – to oppose them.

*Bennett McIntosh is a Masters candidate in the Graduate Program in Science Writing.*

# A reflection from within the LGBTQ community

*Allies can meaningfully support our growing identities*

By Dana Vigue

May 3, 2016

When people find out that I identify as bisexual, it’s not unusual for them to respond, “I wish I were bisexual! That would make life so much easier. Twice the choices!”

Being bisexual does not make life easier. It is not a convenience, and it does not double my chances for love. In fact, it reduces them. Drastically. And it also reduces my chances for self-love and acceptance. In fact, my bisexual identity has consistently strained my familial and romantic relationships, and challenged me to love myself throughout the hardships I’ve endured.

As a bisexual woman, I’ve navigated the years of confusion, self-doubt, and anxiety associated with understanding and accepting my sexual orientation. I went through the heart-wrenching process of confiding in my loved ones, one by one. Some immediately accepted me. Others responded with disbelief, arguing that I was wrong and that I could not possibly know I was bisexual without first having sex with a woman. Others scolded me, declaring that my sexuality was not something I should go around proclaiming. Their consistent denial of my lived experience fu-

eled my self-doubt and eroded my sense of self-worth.

**I hope to remind straight members of the MIT community that you are not excluded from the LGBTQ community.**

I then felt the growing pains of exploring my own identity, facing rejection from some members in the LGBTQ community and doubting my identity in the face of biphobia. Many men I met fetishized me until they realized my capacity for real, emotional love with women. Then they rejected me, sure that I would eventually leave them for someone of the opposite sex. Others incorrectly assumed that one partner would never be enough for me, then fled, intimidated. Various lesbian friends classified me as a gay cop-out, as if the issue was my unwillingness to face the “full” stigma of homosexuality. Or they argued that I only expressed interest in women for attention. They were disappointed by the presence of men in my romantic life. Paradoxically, I was neither gay enough nor straight enough

to be loved and trusted by many of the people in my life.

Even worse, I went on to endure slut-shaming and the verbal and emotional abuse to which bisexual women are often subjected. The introspective and spiritually satisfying exploration of my recently-realized identity was reduced to some version of a Girls Gone Wild story. Male friends I had entrusted with my identity made jokes behind my back. I was hypersexualized, dehumanized, and shamed. The derision I faced in response to my intimate decisions derailed my path to self-acceptance.

**Today, as a more resilient and confident bisexual woman, I am proud of my capacity for love.**

Temporarily.

I had always felt that MIT encouraged authenticity and was a place where unique interests and accomplishments were celebrated: a safe-haven for “nerds.” I didn’t realize the capacity of this community to embrace and nurture such an intimate aspect of my

identity — it simply seemed too much to expect. But the same community of peers who celebrated my academic successes poured their emotional energy into standing by me as I worked to make sense of my identity. I had struggled for so long, unaware that I could confide in the community I called home. The previously untapped love and acceptance that I found pushed me to love and accept myself.

Today, as a more resilient and confident bisexual woman, I am proud of my capacity for love. I never would have thought that a community of straight people who could not empathize with my experience could serve as my rock. I hope to remind straight members of the MIT community that you are not excluded from the LGBTQ community. Stand by our sides as we learn to embrace ourselves and help others to accept themselves. Though you have never experienced life as an LGBTQ person, you can show us loyalty, love, and friendship when the world around us starts to crumble. We live on a fault line, and our lives are sure to be shaky at times. As an ally, you can hold us, pick us up, or at least lie with us on the ground until the earth stops shaking.

*Dana Vigue is a member of the Class of 2017.*

# Students: get involved with MIT’s policymaking processes

By Lilly Chin

April 19, 2016

In early April, *The Tech* ran an article about students Sam Duchovni and Nchinda Nchinda being punished for violating the Allied Barton security policy. It was incredibly frustrating for me to read because Nchinda’s and Sam’s dorm security stories were so similar to my own experiences. Strict dorm security has caused friends to stop visiting me, made me unable to attend a public Dormcon meeting, and was a nontrivial reason for me to move out of my old dorm. As Jade Philipoom wrote in an earlier letter to the editor about security, “few experiences have made me feel less at home.”

But this story was also frustrating because its underlying theme wasn’t new either. Students have long felt excluded from policies that affect them, as seen by these quotes from 2011:

**There’s some systemic failure in communication between the students, the student government, and the administration. So the question is: what do we do about it?**

*“[The DSL dining subcommittee] has regularly dismissed my opinion to the point where I have been unable to contribute to any positive changes for Baker residents.” — President of Baker House on the process of developing the dining plan in *The Tech*.*

*“The handling of several recent situations*

*has left many students feeling disenfranchised and has generated the perception that administrators disregard or are unwilling to solicit input.” — Five former UA Presidents calling for senior administrators to engage more with students in the Faculty Newsletter.*

It’s clear to me that there’s some systemic failure in communication between the students, the student government, and the administration. So the question is: what do we do about it?

For me, it took the last two years to understand the communication problem well enough to effectively fight the dorm security policy. I read the 2012 security recommendations and heard one author’s disappointment that the report’s recommendations weren’t being enacted. I met with Dormcon housing chairs, members of the Corporation, and President Reif. With Dormcon’s help, I collected a series of actionable security policy changes and presented them to Chancellor Barnhart. I even talked to alumni about the feasibility of student protests.

I was ultimately unable to achieve any concrete policy changes. Although I was thanked by many students for continuing security policy discussion and visibly representing student unhappiness, one thing became clear — it is very hard for one undergraduate, working alone, to get anything accomplished. I would need to leverage existing networks for help if I wanted to make a large change.

In my case, I found this network through student government. Although people I spoke to initially dismissed student government as “useless and ineffective,” it turned out that students in government and Institute Committees are the only ones who meet regularly with administrators. Through elections, we have given our student government the position they need to represent students to the

administration and enact change accordingly. And change is definitely happening.

Administrators and student leaders are highly aware that breakdowns in communication exist, and they are trying to fix that. The Committee on Academic Performance has released their recommendations for withdrawal and readmission policies after many years of students fearing potentially exploitive practices. Dormcon has created a security committee with student representatives. I’ve been working to create an Institute-wide committee to create informal open dialogue on opaque policymaking processes.

**Don’t let your discontent live and die in your hall, on mailing lists, or on anonymous Facebook rants. Talk to people. Get involved. Act.**

Perhaps you think these changes are too little, too late, and in some sense, they are. The students should have been involved earlier. Unfairness could have been avoided. However, student-administration communication is improving incrementally and needs more help from passionate students.

So, the question arises again: “How can I make an impact?”

Get involved in your relevant living group government — IFC, Panhel, Dormcon, or LGC — or institutions with a broader scope like the UA and its committees. Being part of the Institute Committees is probably the most effective way to effect change short of being UA President. If you don’t have time, ask your local representative to bring up a topic and keep bothering them until you hear some-

thing definitive. This is the point of having representatives in the first place, and it’s the channel from which administrators expect to hear student feedback.

If you’d rather not work through an intermediate, feel free to email administrators directly and ask for an in-person meeting. Even at the very highest level, President Reif and Chancellor Barnhart have office hours specifically set aside to hear from students. Keep in mind that student government officers or housemasters may know who the best administrator is to contact.

After reading this, if you still believe that the current government structure and policymaking processes are fundamentally broken and beyond saving, then maybe it’s time to start a student protest. Just remember that large changes rarely happen overnight and that your peers may already be acting on the change that you see as “never going to happen.”

**It is very hard for one undergraduate, working alone, to get anything accomplished. I would need to leverage existing networks for help if I wanted to make a large change.**

And so, I urge you: don’t let your discontent live and die in your hall, on mailing lists, or on anonymous Facebook rants. Talk to people. Get involved. Act.

*Lilly Chin is a member of the Class of 2017 and the Chair of the UA Committee on Student-Administration Collaboration.*



# ARTS IN REVIEW

## Favorite Book

### *Death's End*

The final chapter in the stunning Three-Body Trilogy, *Death's End* by Cixin Liu, was released last September, earning a place in the annals of legendary science fiction. *Death's End* combines sensational hard science and eloquent storytelling to close an epic series that I called “a monumental addition to the sci-fi genre.” It’s sure to be a top contender this year for the most prestigious prizes in sci-fi — the Hugo, Nebula, and Locus awards.

*Death's End* appeals to a wide range of audiences — among them, scientists, engineers, stargazers... and really anyone with a sense of curiosity about humanity and our universe. Cixin Liu is sure to awe the reader with his grand visions and striking revelations that are unraveled in pounding succession.

— Ray Wang

At MIT, the arts are not at the first things advertised during admissions tours, nor are they the most popular major. But they are still a crucial component of MIT’s culture, and we see them flourishing within the student population across campus.

Hundreds of students perform in the student-run dance groups like Dance Troupe, Asian Dance Team, Ridonkulous, Mocha Moves, and Fixation, and their drive to bring the art of dance to MIT despite hours of practice and crazy production weeks is truly admirable.

Hundreds of students participate in MIT’s musical groups like MITSO, Chamber Music Society, Rambax, MTG, and a capella, all of whom dedicate time throughout the year to bring performances to

the MIT community at the end of the semester.

Off campus, we’ve seen a blossoming arts community this year in Boston and Cambridge as well. We’ve had hit musicals from Broadway in Boston, new exhibits from the MFA and ICA, and new restaurants like Little Donkey, PAGU, and Bar Mezzana come to town.

Despite the ups and downs of 2016, the arts have steadily remained by our side. We know that the arts are one of things that make MIT (and America) great, and we hope that in 2017, support for the arts does not dwindle either from the government or from the thriving artistic community at MIT today.

— Tara Lee and Karleigh Moore  
Volume 136 Arts Editors

## Favorite Essay

### *Blonde Girls in Cheongsams* by Jenny Zhang

In today’s increasingly divisive political climate, the simplifying and boxing of minorities have become commonplace. In Zhang’s essay, the cheongsam symbolizes the cognitive dissonance of Western supremacy — artifacts of Chinese culture are dismissed as weird and a little jarring, but simultaneously, specific details that lend themselves to an exotic, fetishized aesthetic are lauded as “trendy.” The narrator’s shoplifting is a means of reclaiming selfhood, stealing her identity back from the society that marginalized her. As a Chinese-American girl, this essay resonated deeply with me, as I’m sure it will with many others.

— Rona Wang

## Favorite Movies



### *Zootopia*

Disney blows off the roof yet again with its animated feature *Zootopia*, setting a high standard for animation to come. Set in a world of anthropomorphic animals, *Zootopia* tells the tale of an underdog bunny cop who teams up with a conman fox to solve a mysterious case of missing animals in a world of big baddies. The unlikely pair bring with them humor, heart, and hope — as well as a poignant message about acceptance surprisingly relevant to our world today.

— Erica Weng

### *Rogue One*

In case you were wondering how many lives were lost in obtaining the Death Star plans used in *Star Wars Episode IV (A New Hope)*, *Rogue One* tells it all. The newest installment to the beloved franchise brings us Episode 3.5: how the young renegade Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones) and Rebel captain Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) infiltrate the planet Scarif, swiping the plans in an act of grand valor and self-sacrifice so there could be hope for the future of the galaxies. I am one with the Force and the Force is with me. I am one with the Force and the Force is with me.

— Erica Weng



### *Hidden Figures*

The Internet world of 2016 was rampant with memes criticizing the year for being the greatest meme of all. For minorities and groups historically pushed by the wayside, the ending of the year marked great fear for their futures after the election of a certain individual. *Hidden Figures* is a captivating film that tells the compelling story of three black women who contributed to NASA during the space race as computers and the calculations needed to bring Apollo 13 back home. The film touches upon racial and gender discrimination all through the backdrop of mathematics while having three heartfelt, likeable leads. The film is very aware of its audience and its modern relevance. Really, where else will you find scenes of three black women driving a car chasing a white police car rather than the other way around? While not perfect, *Hidden Figures* is an essential film in celebrating diversity in such a year as 2016.

— Ivy Li

## Favorite Musical

### *An American in Paris*

I reserved no words for the Tony-winning musical *An American in Paris*, touting it as “essential viewing for anyone who has ever admired art or beauty in the world.” The show combines lovely singing and acting, as well as a surprising amount of superb ballet, into a sensual treat set in postwar Paris. The jazzy sounds and familiar show tunes were composed by the great George Gershwin, best known as the creator of *Fantasia* 2000 piece, *Rhapsody in Blue*.

The Broadway show visited Boston last October, and it will continue its North American Tour until August of this year. This is one show that you won’t want to miss and certainly will never forget.

— Ray Wang



## Favorite Restaurant



### *Coreanos*

It opened up in June of 2016, and it’s serving up KoMex food. Yep, it’s Korean-Mexican fusion, bringing items like Kimchi Quesadillas and Bulgogi Beef Tacos to the menu. It’s a small restaurant where you order up front at the register and then cross your fingers that there’s space available at the few tables they have for people dining in. I was a huge fan of their tacos that were generously hugged by not one, but two layers of a soft corn tortilla. The Spicy Pork Tacos in particular were my favorite — even though it wasn’t that spicy, the flavorful ground pork filling had a sweet touch that

combined incredibly well with the soy ginger slaw topping.

When I went with three other friends, we shared a few other dishes family-style, and the number one favorite was definitely the Coreanos Bowl with Beef. It was a homemade rice bowl with onions, carrots, and beef, pan-fried with assorted sauces and an egg on top. The distinctive Korean palate of savory yet sweet was apparent in this dish, and it made for an all-around delicious treat. Give it a try! It’s over in Allston, but well worth the trip.

— Tara Lee





PHOTO IN REVIEW





# NEWS IN REVIEW *timeline*

It's been an event-filled year at the Institute, and it promises to be no less so in the coming year as we gaze ahead toward changes in forms new and old, continuing talk on various aspects of student life and health, and more MIT-led initiatives as the Institute swells its influence across Cambridge and the rest of the world.

The following events have influenced and been influenced by every member of a remarkable collection of people: the MIT community. Our reporters have worked

diligently all year to relay and investigate these events. To help you refresh on what has happened and prepare you for what will, we've organized this past year's MIT events into a few categories. With the present tumultuous state of the nation, when it feels as if status quos can completely denature in the span of a week, I hope that this will provide some sense of structure. Join me as we look back at a...well, *different* time.

— Vivian Zhong  
Volume 136 News Editor

## ACADEMICS

**May 20**

EECS announces a new curriculum for the class of 2020 and open to older classes. Key changes to the curriculum for 6-1, 6-2, and 6-3 include the removal of one of the introductory EECS labs.

**Aug. 31**

GECD announces that the Cambridge-MIT Exchange (CME), after fifteen years of being MIT's flagship international exchange program, will come to an end after the 2016-2017 school year.

## New Majors and Minors

MIT added an unprecedented four new majors and seven new minors this year. Speaking with The Tech, Dean for Undergraduate Education Dennis M. Freeman PhD '86 said that each new major and minor was created in response to needs that the faculty identified. If a minor isn't available, students often take a sampling of classes in a field of interest. Such sampling is "perfectly okay," Freeman said, but "the value of a minor is a credential."

**Aug. 3**

Three new minors in Course 1: Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering Science, and Civil and Environmental Systems.

**March 31**

New minor in Statistics and Data Science through the MIT Center for Statistics.

**April 8**

New minor in Computer Science.

## ELECTION

**Nov. 9**

Donald Trump is elected president. President Reif writes in an email the next day that MIT will always be a place where people "work together to make a better world." A group of students organized an overnight gathering in Lobby 7 for people to share their thoughts.

**Nov. 21**

Faculty and student members of the department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences author and publish a statement opposing President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet appointments and reaffirming their dedication to "principles at the core of MIT's mission." The statement has garnered more than 600 signatures since its initial posting.

**Nov. 21**

Around 300 MIT students, faculty, and community members gather on Killian Court for a rally to demonstrate solidarity with MIT's values and with marginalized groups on campus.

**Dec. 8**

Chancellor Barnhart affirms MIT's dedication to supporting its undocumented students in light of potential changes to U.S. immigration policy under the Trump administration, such as a repeal of DACA.

**Jan. 20**

Donald Trump is inaugurated as president. Around 100 MIT community members travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in rallies and protests.

**Jan. 21**

Women's Marches take place around the country, with about 100 MIT affiliates participating in the march held in Boston.

**Jan. 27**

Trump signs an executive order that prevents immigrants from seven countries with majority Muslim population from entering the country. The next day, MIT students from Iran and Syria returning to Boston after IAP in their home countries are barred from their flights.

## STUDENT HEALTH

**March 30**

The Committee on Academic Performance releases a report on their review of MIT's withdrawal and readmissions policies. Among the recommendations are a two-year "leave of absence" and a reaffirmation that students on leave are expected to return to the Institute to complete their degrees.

**Feb. 3**

The mental health platform Lean On Me, which matches users with volunteer peer supporters who can relate to students' challenges, is launched by a team of students. Later in February, Peer2Peer, an anonymous web-based peer support platform, launches. late last month. Backed by the Institute, the site allows users to chat with fellow students.

## Good Samaritan Policy

**April 28**

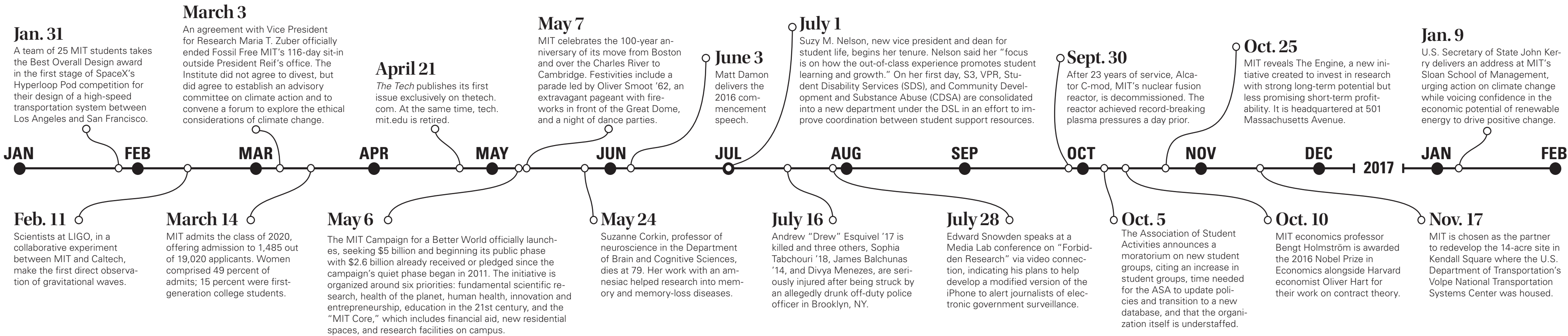
In response to hundreds of emails received urging clarification of MIT's alcohol and drugs help-seeking policies, Kevin Kraft, the Director of Student Citizenship told The Tech that policies that students are calling for "is essentially what is happening."

**April 20**

Ahead of a Committee on Student Life meeting, UA President Matthew J. Davis '16 urges undergraduates to begin a letter writing campaign to voice their opinions on MIT's Good Samaritan Amnesty Policy. Davis called to guarantee student safety from disciplinary actions should the student seek help for drug or alcohol related issues.

**Aug. 18**

Suzy Nelson, VPSP, announces that MIT's Good Samaritan Amnesty Policy will treat alcohol and prohibited substances equally, and has been extended to offer protection from alcohol and drug sanctions to student organizations.



## DORMS

**April 26**

The "housemaster" title is changed to "head of house" after several housemasters requested a new title in January.

**June 21**

A fire causes significant damage to the Random Hall rooftop. Students were relocated to New House after a brief stay in Next House. An investigation later determined that "improper disposal of smoking material" was the cause of the fire.

**Sept. 15**

DSL pauses a pilot program intended to improve equality across dining halls after miscommunications with Bon Appetit, the dining catering company.

**Nov. 10**

Marcus Boorstin '17 calls on his class to boycott the Senior Gift to protest administrative decisions over the past few years, including the shutdown of Bexley Hall, changes in dorm security, and the ban on freshmen in Senior House.

## New Dorm

**Feb. 18**

Associate Provost Karen K. Gleason announces that after months of design work, the Metropolitan Moving & Storage Warehouse will not become a dorm. Instead, a new undergraduate residence will be built.

**Oct. 18**

The Architectural Principles for MIT Undergraduate Residences Group, convened in August to study "issues that shape ideal residence hall design," releases its findings. Among its recommendations: designing residence halls around a "cluster" of 30 students and one Graduate Resident Tutor (GRT) in a mix of single rooms, double rooms, and shared space.

**Jan. 25**

The New Residences Working Group, convened in December, finishes its pre-design work on the new dorm that will be built on Vassar St.

## New House

**May 5**

In light of recurring infrastructure issues in the building, DormCon announces that New House will need to be "thoroughly repaired or demolished."

**Nov. 5**

Chancellor Barnhart announces that New House will be renovated, not rebuilt, over the course of two years. Except for a few cultural houses, New House students will be relocated to other residence halls.

**Jan. 5**

DSL announces that New House renovations are expected to be complete in time for full occupancy for fall 2018 due to "a better understanding about what the renovation requires."

## Senior House

**June 10**

Chancellor Barnhart PhD '88 announces that no freshmen will be housed in Senior House the coming fall, citing a comparatively low four-year graduation rate and ongoing problems with illegal drug use. The dorm would receive new live-in staff and mental health resources, and a turnaround team would work to address perceived problems. Student leaders were not consulted during the decision-making process.

**Sept. 14**

The Senior House turnaround team meets for the first time. Members of the steering committee, which oversees the turnaround team, include Head of House Jay Scheib, newly appointed Associate Head of House Kristen Covino, Senior House Co-Presidents Sarah Melvin '18 and James Handy '18, and a Senior House GRT.

**Dec. 1**

Chancellor Barnhart announces that Senior House is on the right trajectory to welcome freshmen in the fall of 2017, in response to the Senior Gift boycott.



# SPORTS IN REVIEW

## Margaret Guo '16 named NCAA woman of the year

By **Souparno Ghosh**  
*SPORTS EDITOR*

November 1, 2016

Margaret Guo '16 was named NCAA woman of the year (WOTY), thereby becoming the first student-athlete from MIT and only the fourth among division III athletes to win this coveted award. The WOTY award recognizes athletic achievements, scholarly accomplishments, and leadership skills and service throughout one's collegiate career. Guo checked all the boxes and more.

Guo graduated with a perfect GPA with majors in Biological Engineering (Course 20) and EECS (Course 6). In the pool, she holds the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) and school record for 400 medley relay, the NEWMAC record for 200 medley relay, and the NEWMAC championship meet record for the 200 freestyle relay.

During her time at MIT, Guo pursued a three and a half year-long UROP in Professor Linda Griffith's lab, where she developed a synthetic model of an endometrial system. Guo also did a superUROP co-advised by Professor Thomas Heldt and Professor George C. Verghese from which she has a co-authored publication to her credit.

It is a tall order to not miss out on her numerous accomplishments in what has been a remarkable collegiate career. So here, we hear from Guo herself, from her immediate reactions on winning the award to reflections on what it took to sustain an elite level of performance for four years. UROP supervisors, swimming coach, and teammates chime in on what made Margaret Guo simply marvellous.

"It's hard to describe how I'm feeling right now. I'd say a mixture of happiness, gratitude, and pensiveness. MIT is a super special place. And though there were a lot of sleepless nights and substantial obstacles, overall, it was a very nurturing, collaborative environment that I love and have thrived in. It's these people who have made my MIT experience so special and who continually push me to become a better version of myself," Guo said upon receiving the award.

Chancellor Barnhart noted, "The fact

that Margaret is the first MIT student-athlete to receive this significant award makes her hard work in and out of the pool as well as our community's support for her all the more special. This honor caps off a career at the Institute marked by impressive athletic and academic excellence and community service."

While the theme of support and a nurturing environment is recurring it is not unique to just one student-athlete. So what about Margaret Guo made her stand out?

As it turns out, Guo was already making a big impression starting her freshman year.

"I met Margaret fall of her freshmen year at a SWE (Society for Women Engineers) dinner and was captivated by her incredible breadth of interests and her great enthusiasm for all she was experiencing at MIT, including her myriad extracurricular activities (varsity swim team, officer in SWE, etc)," Griffith recalled.

Griffith went on to add, "I actually thought she was a sophomore or junior then, based on the classes she was enrolled in and was describing with extraordinary insights. One of the classes she took her first term at MIT was mine: Thermodynamics of Biomolecular Interactions (20.110). I soon recognized her as one of the students who often spoke up in class with comments or questions for clarification, always insightful and on target - remarkable, because she was the only freshman in the class! And in fact, she is the only freshman I can recall ever to take the class in the 10 plus years I have taught it! (I think there was one more after I wrote this letter). Even more remarkable: She earned an A+ in the class - a grade given to only a couple of students."

Guo's academic exploits were not restricted to the classroom.

"Margaret started a SuperUROP with Thomas Heldt and me in 2014, and stayed involved with the research beyond that," Verghese said. "She quickly established herself as a key participant in the project, and by the end of the year she was a co-author on a paper (presented at a biomedical engineering conference in Milan that she attended) and co-inventor on a patent application."

"I could never fathom how she managed all this and 5.0s in her two majors (EECS and

Biological Engineering), plus her competitive swimming, all of it with dedication, seriousness, but also a ready smile," Verghese concluded.

Guo's dedication to academics was only matched by her fierce competitiveness in the pool.

Head coach of MIT's swimming team, Dani Korman noted, "Her competitiveness pushed her teammates to improve every day while maintaining a positive attitude during the toughest of times. She is a confident leader who also holds herself and others accountable. Even while maintaining a perfect GPA and traveling to 11 medical school interviews last year her dedication to the sport prevailed."

However, Guo was more than just the captain urging her teammates to get better or work harder. As competitive as she was in the pool, she was a loyal and dedicated friend of it.

Teammate Veronika Jedryka '17 who set a number of program records with Guo in the 2016 NEWMAC championships said, "Out of the pool she also went above and beyond as a teammate. Whenever she heard or knew someone was going through a tough time, she would pause whatever work she was doing and go to that teammate and talk to them."

"She would sometimes stay up late hours just to make sure someone understood the work they were doing. She made such a big impact to the team in and out of the pool and I am forever grateful for the person she is and what she has done for me and the team," Jedryka added.

As much as it is fascinating to see Guo through the eyes of those who had the privilege of working closely with her, we are still to learn how she managed to accomplish so much.

Margaret Guo helped out with that!

In fact she listed three things she thought were essential to her being able to pursue and succeed in multiple avenues in college.

*Time management:* "I learnt early on I needed to plan things early — my classes, practices so I could spend time in the lab."

*Not to be afraid of setbacks:* "Over the span of an entire college career [setback] is

going to happen. In my freshman year there were definitely times of self doubt and things did get overwhelming at times. But you have to persist with dogged determination and tell yourself you can get through everything and believe that things will work out in the end."

*Not to be afraid to rely on other people:* "What I really liked about MIT is that it [the environment] is extremely collaborative. You surround yourself with people who challenge you be the best version of yourself — upperclassmen you can look up to or friends who can cheer you up when things are not great."

But while you can compromise on your sleep to bail you out of a particularly difficult problem set or push yourself the hardest to break your personal record in the pool, there are some obstacles in life that are almost impossible to prepare for or overcome alone.

When asked about the most challenging time during her college career, Guo replied, "It was the spring of my junior year [2015]. We lost a teammate to suicide. [That] hurt a lot inside. That was really challenging in terms of feeling almost lost not sure why or how or what I could have done."

"MIT does have support. I was able to found support and I felt we came together stronger as a team," Guo added.

Guo joined the MD-PhD program at Stanford this fall.

"I want to create medical devices or medical technologies combining medicine and engineering. I am currently looking at a career in regenerative medicine or computational genomics," said Guo.

Margaret Guo became the first student-athlete to be awarded the NCAA woman of the year. She might as well have had one of the most accomplished collegiate careers all round. But perhaps the most amazing part is, there might yet be so much to look forward to.

As coach Korman put it, "Margaret had an illustrious career as a student-athlete, but I am most excited to see where her passion for helping others takes her in the future."

Congratulations Margaret Guo! You have made us all proud.

# World Series 2016: why each team could win

By **Ahaan Rungta**  
*SPORTS STAFF*

October 26, 2016

After six months of regular and postseason play, the 2016 World Series will see two teams competing, neither of which have experienced a championship in a very long time. The Chicago Cubs will try to break their 108-year curse, and the Cleveland Indians will try to break a curse of their own by becoming the latest city to win two sports championships in the same year (alongside LeBron James' Cavaliers).

No matter which side becomes the new champion, their city will have an incredible story. With baseball fans around the country picking sides and bets flying over the internet, this World Series is anticipated to be nothing short of thrilling. Thought its events are impossible to foresee, here are the top five reasons to believe that each team will win the World Series.

**Chicago Cubs (NL):**  
**#5: Defense**

One of the best defensive units in the Major Leagues, the Cubs defense has done it all - saved games, made games, turned the tables around for the opponents, and most recently set the tone in NLCS games against the Dodgers. They have several gold glove candidates and multiple players in Kris Bryant and Ben Zobrist who can play multiple positions around the field. Manager Joe Maddon will definitely not have brick gloves as one of his concerns over the World Series.

**#4: It's their year**

With the best regular season team across the majors with a record of 103-58, this Cubs team has carried a level of consistent play in all angles of the game. Their endurance, tenacity, and depth in young talent has strengthened the team into one that was unflustered by changes such as the injury of Kyle Schwarber and the decline of veteran Jason Heyward. They've seen enough adversity even in the playoffs so far that it's hard imagining a situation that they would not be able to commandeer.

**#3: Pitching to Pressure**

To say that the Cubs have a lot of experience in their clubhouse is a massive understatement. Despite the struggles of Jason Heyward, his presence among the young players has been advertised as a key part of the endurance of the team. Anthony Rizzo has also stepped up as a leading force in the Cubs offense. However, most of the attention must come to the starting rotation of the Cubs, with the reigning NL Cy Young winner Jake Arrieta being perhaps the coldest arm in their rotation right now.

In two NLCS starts against the Dodgers, Cy Young candidate Kyle Hendricks shone, allowing just one run. However, the ace of the staff recently has not been Arrieta or Hendricks. Rather, it's been NLCS co-MVP Cy Young candidate Jon Lester. A two-time world champion with the Boston Red Sox, Lester has come up clutch in the past for the Red Sox and this year with the Cubs. Nothing has flustered him. The Dodgers' mind games and the Giants' Cueto were not enough to beat Lester as he still holds a career 2.50 postseason ERA and 0.43 World Series ERA before this World Series. To guess that Lester would choke in the playoffs suggests a lottery ticket.

John Lackey is a force to contend with as well. With his win in Game 6 of the 2013 World Series with the Red Sox, Lackey became the first starting pitcher in major league history to be the winner of two World Series-clinching games with two different teams. Could he make it three with the Cubs? The Indians definitely aren't going to have it easy.

**#2: Kyle Schwarber**

The 23-year old left-handed batting stud Schwarber was severely injured at the beginning of the regular season and he missed almost the entirety of the year with multiple torn ligaments. After recovering smoothly and playing some Arizona Fall League ball, the Cubs see him as a major threat in the middle of the lineup, filling the designated hitter role at Progressive Field with AL rules.

The possibility of Schwarber being completely unprepared for a return to the MLB exists. However, when the Indians have to visit Wrigley Field without the DH, they will

most likely either have to force Mike Napoli's hand at left field or play without the benefit of both Carlos Santana and Mike Napoli in the starting lineup, making the Cubs' road situation seem much less tricky. Schwarber definitely cannot hurt the Cubs' chances and if he clicks, he could be the biggest RBI force during the World Series.

**#1: Theo Epstein**

A name at the tip of the tongue of every Boston Red Sox fan, Cubs President of Baseball Operations Theo Epstein knows a thing or two about breaking "curses" - he ended the 86-year Boston Red Sox drought by building a dynamic team from the farm and up. He's done the same with the Chicago Cubs. Not only has he pulled young talent out of seemingly nowhere, he's reunited with familiar faces from the Red Sox such as Anthony Rizzo and Jon Lester to add the veteran experience that gives the Cubs the depth they have. It's hard to doubt a team built by Epstein - he could simply be a genius.

**Cleveland Indians (AL):**

**#5: Less pressure**

In almost any World Series matchup that includes the Indians, the lack of a championship since 1948 would have all eyes on Cleveland. However, with the Chicago Cubs in the limelight trying to reap the benefits of their first NL pennant since 1945, the Indians are grabbing less attention than their opponents, allowing their staff to work as underdogs - that's how they've liked it all season.

**#4: Home sweet home**

Even if the all-star game doesn't have serious implications, the Indians and Cubs both have significantly better records at home than they do on the road. If it comes down to a Game 7, Progressive Field is probably going to play a significant role in the outcome.

**#3: Running game**

The biggest base-stealers in baseball have a lot to think about against the Cubs batteries, especially Lester and Ross. Rajai Davis, Coco Crisp, Francisco Lindor, and Tyler Naquin are just a few of the many thefts in the lineup. Even Mike Napoli, known to be one of the smartest yet slowest baserunners, has spent his fair share of time around Lester and

Lackey. The Indians were the second-best run-scoring offense in the MLB and a good chunk of the credit goes to their aggressive, decisive trips around the bases.

**#2: Terry Francona**

Like Theo Epstein of the Cubs, Terry Francona also comes from a Red Sox team that broke the curse. A clear candidate for the AL Manager of the Year award in 2016, Terry Francona has managed his bullpen like no other in the playoffs. If there's any man that can out-think him, it's probably Joe Maddon, but the Cubs have a reigning Manager of the Year with not as much experience as the Indians manager when it comes to winning the championship. Francona's been there, done that - and don't forget, if the Indians can win 3 games, Francona's 8-3 record in playoff closeout games will only be looking to improve further.

**#1: A bullpen that kills**

Needless to say, the Indians have the most dominant bullpen in baseball - flawless in the postseason so far. Games in which the Indians have the lead past the fourth inning seem to be virtually over.

Known primarily for their starting pitching at the beginning of the season, the Cleveland Indians lost starters Danny Salazar and Carlos Carrasco to injuries. While Salazar returns to the rotation for the World Series, a torn-up Trevor Bauer and a streaky Josh Tomlin beg for Terry Francona to depend on his bullpen, which hasn't led him down yet.

The leader of the pack is the only lefty in the bullpen for the Indians, ALCS MVP Andrew Miller. Traded from the New York Yankees at the deadline and leaving his role as closer, Miller has dissected the dominant offensive charges of the Boston Red Sox and the Toronto Blue Jays with ease. He'll be faced with many right-handed hitters and switch-hitters but so far, the most devastating slider in baseball has been automatic, handing the closing job to Cody Allen who has been perfect at the big stage.

Who has the advantage? Which city will come away finally victorious? You can decide for yourself and watch the best-of-7 series on Fox Sports on game nights at 8 p.m.



# Young forwards leading the charge for women’s soccer

## Reilly ’20, Berzolla ’20, Apostol ’19, and Struckmann ’18 on this season’s goal and what it means to play for the women’s soccer team

By Yueyang Ying  
SPORTS STAFF

October 11, 2016

Working hard on and off the field, the MIT women’s soccer team is engineering a season to remember. At the start of the season, the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference women’s soccer preseason coaches’ poll placed MIT as the top school favored to win the league championships.

Things did not start all that smoothly as the Engineers suffered a painful double-overtime loss (2-1 to WPI) in their first conference game.

Rookie Montana Reilly ’20 reflected, “That was a wake up call for us. Since then, we have beaten all the other teams in our league.”

Currently, the team’s record is 11-4, which included a seven-game unbeaten streak, the last six of which were shutouts. The streak was broken only this past Sunday when the women’s soccer team, playing away on less than a day’s rest, lost to the current Division III national champions, Williams College.

The fantastic front-four of Reilly, Emily Berzolla ’20, Amy Apostol ’19 and Olivia Struckmann ’18 has been hugely influential in carrying the team toward victory. Combined, they have a total of 19 goals, 12 assists, and 50 points.

When asked about her stats ranking, Apostol

said, “Being a leader in stats is exciting but it’s not the most important part of the game. When I play, I play for my teammates. I know how badly they all want to win and I want to help make this a reality for all of them.”

Competitive soccer began pretty early for all four of these forwards.

Reilly started playing soccer at the age of five, transitioning to club at the age of 11 and played for Real So Cal. Her Harvard-Westlake High School team was ranked first nationally her junior year and she stepped up to be a captain in her senior year.

Berzolla, on the other hand, immersed herself in the soccer world at the even younger age of three and played in her town travel league from second to fifth grade. After playing for Beachside SC for a year, she transitioned to a brand new team, New York SC.

Reflecting upon her experience, she said, “I played there for six years and it was great.”

Meanwhile, Apostol started playing recreationally at age five, but joined a competitive club soccer team at age eight. In high school, she played in a national league, culminating in a national title her sophomore year of high school.

Similarly, Struckmann started playing recreational soccer when she was five years old and joined her first club team when she was eight.

She continued to play on the same club team, Sereno SC, for eight years before graduating high school and playing for MIT.

This year, Struckmann is an upperclassman on a younger team, so she feels responsible for the mindset of the team during games and practices.

“We have some really talented younger players who have stepped into big roles for the team early on, and so the it has been the job of the older girls to get them on the same page as the rest of the team tactically and make sure they feel comfortable being a presence on the field,” she said.

Last year, the the women’s soccer team had a record of 11-6-3, and suffered a heartbreaking loss in the NEWMAC semifinals, losing to Springfield in penalty kicks. This year, they are determined to bring home the gold.

“One of our biggest [team goals] is to not lose two games in a row, and so far we haven’t,” said Reilly.

Last week, the Engineers celebrated victories over two NESCAC teams, both 1-0 victories of one over Tufts and Bowdoin.

As the season progresses, the team remains steadfast on its primary target: fulfill the NEWMAC preseason prediction of winning the league.

Apostol noted, “As one of the best teams in

the league who is constantly winning the regular season, we are due for a tournament win.”

For Struckmann, with only one more season left after this, she is determined to make every game count, so that the team can win the NEWMAC tournament and make it to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA.

In addition, due to the roster size of 31 players, the practices are intense and include friendly competition to improve each other’s skills.

Apostol added, “Because there are so many players on the team, you have to work every single day in order to earn playing time on the field, [which] pushes us all to become better players and stay focused 100 percent of the time.”

The MIT mindset of working hard translates really well onto the field.

Reilly stated, “We have limited time for practice [because we put academics first], but everyone is so focused, meaning that practices are productive.”

Despite prioritizing academics, the girls agree that being able to play on MIT’s soccer team has incorporated a necessary balance in their daily schedule, and definitely enhanced their MIT experience thus far. Soccer provides a stress outlet, a support system, and above all, a solid foundation of best friends on and off the field.

# Douglas A. Kogut ’18 wins 200-fly national title at NCAA meet

## Kogut is only the fourth student-athlete in MIT history to win an individual national title

By Souparno Ghosh  
SPORTS EDITOR

April 8, 2016

Douglas A. Kogut ’18 won the 200-fly individual title at the recently-concluded NCAA Division III national meet, thereby becoming the first student athlete from MIT to win a title in that category and fourth to win an individual event at the national meet. His time of 1:47:28 was both a personal and a school record and he clinched it when the spotlight shone brightest. He was also part of the 400-free relay team that won silver.

In this edition of *The Tech’s* Player of the Month, Kogut recounts how, with unyielding consistency, he woke up at five in the morning to maintain his swimming regimen. The course 6-3 major also spoke about strategy and his plans for the Campus Preview Weekend (CPW).

**The Tech:** Congratulations on winning the 200-fly national title at the NCAA division III meet! How does it feel?

**Douglas A. Kogut:** It feels great to be able to represent MIT in that capacity. I also think my achievement is a reflection on my teammates and coaching staff.

**The Tech:** You went into the nationals with a certain mindset. You first competed in the 100-fly, then the qualifying heat for 200-fly finals where you came in third, and eventually the 200-fly. Can you take us through your mindset as those events transpired?

**Kogut:** Going into the meet, I definitely did not think I was going to win. I was going for getting into the final heat and then finishing in the top eight so I can score points. When I came in third in the qualifier, I knew I had a chance. I got into the zone, got ready for the finals, and competed.

**The Tech:** What does it mean to be ‘in the zone’ for a swimmer?

**Kogut:** I would say for me it is listening to music, focusing on the race, going through every component of the race in my head.

**The Tech:** You mentioned you thought you had a good chance after you finished third in the qualifying heat. How much influence do fellow competitors have during the race? Does it end as soon as you dive in or do you get some idea of how others are performing in adjacent lanes?

**Kogut:** From the results of the qualification round I knew most of the other finalists had a strong back half of the race. On the other I hand I have a good front half. So I knew I would be out ahead early on. So if I could sustain that then I knew they would not be able to catch up. Thankfully, that strategy worked.

After the race has started, you can get a look at others at the turns but for the most part it is about doing your best.

**The Tech:** Is there such a thing as saving your best for the finals while you hold yourself back a little during the qualifiers?

**Kogut:** No, not in the national meet. Our coach says you win points in the [morning qualifiers] because if you do not qualify you will definitely not score a single point.

**The Tech:** Do pools and/or lanes matter in a race?

**Kogut:** I would say for me, no. But a lot of people suggested that the pool where the nationals were held was fast, in that swimmers raced faster than their usual times. The temperature of the water can matter, but for me as long as it is not too hot or too cold it makes little difference.

**The Tech:** This is the first 200-fly national title in school history and the fourth national title in swim and dive. Given the sheer rarity, does your accomplishment feel all the more special?

**Kogut:** The last student-athlete from MIT to win an individual title at the national meet was Wyatt Ubellacker ’13. I looked up to him. Now I have a chance to inspire my fellow teammates.

**The Tech:** You compete in the 100 and 200 butterfly. Why do you like those events?

**Kogut:** I prefer butterfly to the other



VIVIAN HU—THE TECH

**Douglas Kogut ’18 captured the 200-fly National title** with a time of 1:47.28, a new MIT and personal record.

strokes because I feel like it is the hardest stroke and, especially at the 200 distance, the most strategic stroke to swim.

**The Tech:** What do you do in the off season to become a better swimmer?

**Kogut:** Last season, after nationals, I was really motivated as I did not make it to the finals of any event. So I swam seven to eight times a week, waking up at 5 a.m. every day. This off season I plan to do a lot of weight-lifting.

**The Tech:** How does weight-lifting help?

**Kogut:** For sprint events or even up to 200 meters it helps in the explosiveness and underwater.

**The Tech:** How do you like spending time off the pool when you do not have psets due?

**Kogut:** I like hanging out with my friends

on Baker-5th. We often play Smash.

**The Tech:** It is CPW! What are your plans?

**Kogut:** I am hosting a swimmer who has committed to MIT. I plan to hang out with the team a lot, along with the incoming recruits.

**The Tech:** Looking ahead, what are your goals for next year?

**Kogut:** I would definitely like to repeat this feat and in addition accrue as many points as possible for the team.

**The Tech:** Thank you for making the time to talk to us.

**Kogut:** Thanks!

*Editor’s note: This interview was lightly edited for clarity and length.*

*Please continue to send in your recommendations for the Player of the Month to sports@tech.mit.edu.*

# Softball to head to College World Series

By Souparno Ghosh  
SPORTS EDITOR

May 2, 2016

Softball is headed to its first College World Series appearance (NCAA Final 8 to be held in Salem, VA) after defeating WPI 2-0 in a best-of-three series in the NCAA Super Regional championship.

Alexandra Marshall ’16 allowed zero earned runs over 14 innings while Amanda Lee ’18 hit a two-run blast in the first inning of Game 2 to give MIT a decisive advantage in a series that was dominated by stellar pitching.

A series on the road against a team that had just eliminated the three-time defending national champions, Tufts, and the team that had 4-1 record this against the Engineers this

season seemed like a daunting task.

Game 1:

Thankfully for MIT, on the mound, they had an ace in Marshall. Just like she has been doing all season, MIT’s all-time leader in strikeouts twirled a gem allowing just two hits in a complete game shutout.

Runs were hard to come by for both teams but the all-important one was driven in by rookie Amber Vanhemel ’19, who drove in Jasmin Joseph ’18 in top of the 6th inning with a single up the middle. Joseph went 3-3 and was the only player on either side to get an extra-base-hit.

However, WPI was not ready to give in without a fight. In the bottom of the final frame, it had runners on first and second base with two outs. Pinch-hitter Rianna May stepped up to the plate and hit a fly ball to

right field that seemed certain to plate the game-tying run. Katherine Shade ’18 had other ideas. She made quick ground and made a diving catch to put a lid on WPI’s late rally.

Game 2:

MIT got a off to a great start in the second game when Lee hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the first inning. But much like the first game another pitcher’s duel ensued between Marshall and Clare Doolin.

WPI managed to reduce the deficit to one run when Kristin Gallagher hit a sacrifice fly to drive Anna Binney who had advanced to third base following an error by shortstop Lee.

As much as Marshall’s dominance on the mound has laid the platform for MIT’s record-breaking run this season, team chemistry has been a key ingredient of its success.

When Marshall needed some help, her teammates stepped up in key moments. Shade added to her highlight reel catch from Game 1 with another two in right field, homer-hero Lee who had committed two errors in the game made a great heads-up play to prevent the game tying run from reaching in scoring position in the final inning, and Marshall’s batterymate Ali Trueworthy ’17 threw out Nina Murphy-Cook (who was 3/3 in stolen bases in the series) in the penultimate frame.

With a place in the World Series up for grabs and WPI down to its last out all that was missing from another Marshall gem was a strikeout and by now you can guess how WPI’s fate was sealed.

MIT’s World Series adventure starts this coming Thursday in Salem, Virginia.



# CAMPUS LIFE IN REVIEW

Every day we trudge through the Infinite. We pass peers, professors, and staff, all heading their separate ways. In Campus Life, we

cross paths; we learn each other's names and hear each other's voices. We all have stories to share. This year, we heard resilience in

struggle and grief in loss, courage under pressure and inspiration in hard work. We heard from our president, from a student EMT,

from incredible people in hard places. Now, we return to these articles—we'll catch a glimpse of their lives before they melt back

into the crowd. This is you and me. This is MIT.

—Chloe Yang  
*Volume 136 Campus Life Editor*

## The power of inspiration

By L. Rafael Reif

December 8, 2016

I grew up in Caracas, Venezuela, the youngest of four brothers: Elias, Benjamin, Isaac and me. When Elias was a baby, my parents fled from Eastern Europe in the late 1930s, just before World War II. They first took refuge in Ecuador, on the west coast of South America. Benjamin and Isaac were born there. Eventually, in search of work, my parents moved to Venezuela, on the Caribbean coast, where I was born.

**I feel strongly about how important it is to be humble and respectful to those who have not been fortunate enough to have the same opportunities I did.**

When my mother and father arrived in South America, they did not know the language or understand the culture. By the time I came along, at home we spoke Yiddish and Spanish. Neither of my parents had had the opportunity for more than a very simple education. But they were smart and caring people of great principle and integrity.

I saw my father do all sorts of humble jobs to make a living for our family. To this day, each time I see a humble person in some menial job, I see a smart person like my parents who did not have the opportunity for an education. Elias and Benjamin also had to quit their education right after elementary school to help my father support our family.

When I was little, almost no one I knew went to high school. But somehow, my third brother, Isaac, decided that he wanted to, and by then the family did not need him to work, so he was allowed to go to a public high school. In poor neighborhoods, most people do what others do, and to this day I do not know what inspired him to go to high school. But he did. By the time I came along, Isaac had already gone on to college, and, by his example, he had also inspired Benjamin to get his high school diploma by going to night school. So, for me

— with these two role models — continuing my education seemed like the obvious choice, and my family could afford for me to go to high school instead of working like Elias and Benjamin did.

By the time I was finishing high school, Isaac was in the U.S. getting a PhD, and Benjamin had moved on to college — so again, for me the path to college was obvious. I liked the people my brothers got to spend time with at their universities, and I thought that if I could get educated as an engineer, it could lead to a steady job. I enrolled first at Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas. Unfortunately, after two years, the government shut the university down because of student riots. I waited another two years for the university to reopen, earning my keep by tutoring high school students. Eventually, Elias encouraged me to transfer to Universidad de Carabobo in Valencia, a city where he was living at the time. I graduated there with a degree in electrical engineering in 1973.

I started to think then that maybe I could have a career teaching at a local university. So, I decided to get a PhD in the United States — just like Isaac. I spoke very little English. But somehow I managed to get into a PhD program in electrical engineering at Stanford University. Living in California was a whole new world. I had never lived outside of Venezuela, and it was hard to leave my family and my friends behind. My plan all along was to finish my education and return to Venezuela to pursue an academic career.

After I completed my PhD, I stayed on at Stanford for a year to do research. It was May 1979, and I had told everyone that I was moving back to Venezuela that fall. I was, in fact, already packing.

While attending a conference, I bumped into a colleague who had left Stanford for MIT. He said MIT was looking for a faculty member in my field: Would I be interested? I said I was flattered, but I was non-committal. (After all, I had seen pictures of the great Massachusetts Blizzard of 1978. I wanted to go back to the warmth of Venezuela, in every sense.)

Then another MIT professor, the chair of the Faculty Search Committee, started recruiting me hard. He would call almost every other night at home, trying to convince me to interview. In one of those phone conversations he asked, “What are the chances that if you came to interview at MIT, you might like it?” I didn’t want to say “Zero” — I didn’t want to offend him. So, I said, “Five percent.” He said, “Five percent is not zero — why don’t you come?”

By this time, my brother Benjamin was doing his PhD at MIT, so I thought I could visit him and interview. So, I came, I spent a day here, and I realized — “This is it!”

MIT made me an offer, and I accepted right away. We packed the car with all our belongings and drove all the way across the country. It took about three weeks, most of it camping. My moving expenses were a bunch of receipts for campsites.

When I finally got here, MIT became my home — and I never left. I loved the people, the values and the mission. It was like no place else that I had ever been. I still feel the same way.

When I look back on my experience and I think about my parents, I feel strongly about how important it is to be humble and respectful to those who have not been fortunate enough to have the same opportunities I did.

**Out of four brothers, three of us ended up getting PhDs. That is the power of inspiration.**

Out of four brothers, three of us ended up getting PhDs. That is the power of inspiration, of having a role model. If it weren’t for my brother Isaac, I would not have been able to fulfill the dreams my parents had for us. He was my role model. I did what he did. He inspired me and showed me the way. And he did the same for Benjamin — his older brother, and another role model for me. And the three of us did what we did under the inspiration of our oldest brother, Elias, a man with impeccable integrity, who helped support our parents and supported us morally, ethically, and financially in every way he could.

By the time I joined MIT as a faculty member, Benjamin was finishing his PhD here, and he escorted me to my faculty office on my first day. A year and a half later, I attended his PhD Commencement at MIT.

It is all still very hard to believe.

*L. Rafael Reif is the president of MIT.*

*Off the Beaten Path is a series that shares stories from members of the MIT community from working-class backgrounds. Comments, questions, and submissions are welcome at [cl@tech.mit.edu](mailto:cl@tech.mit.edu).*

By Hannah Rudoltz

November 17, 2016

The “MIT bubble” is ubiquitous and yet sometimes invisible. Even Cambridge itself can seem like an enclave, the town of the ivory tower. Students look forward to leaving it for trips home and brief jaunts into Boston, but those of us who staff the MIT ambulance live in a sort of twilight zone, half in the bubble and half out.

MIT EMS is not your typical student club. Members volunteer their time to staff our student-designed, award-winning ambulance for at least 49 hours per semester. Each member is certified as a basic EMT both nationally and in Massachusetts, a process that takes a lot of studying and practice. Most new EMTs are certified through our IAP class, which runs from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., five days a week.

In the class, we learn clinical information, like the etiology of certain cardiac problems, in the mornings and practice practical skills in the afternoons. New EMTs work with two superiors so they can get further training and confidence. It’s an intense introduction to an atypical path through MIT, where EMTs are expected to be both professionals and students.

MIT EMS exists at the edge of the MIT bubble. We have social events and meetings like most other clubs. The EMTs on the service are often at the center of campus wellness projects, like the new Mind Hand Heart initiative or our current project with Save a Life, Save a Heart (SALSAH) to increase CPR training and stroke awareness on campus. But we also reach out to the community in Cambridge — our ambulance was at The Port Pride Day, and we donated an AED (automated external defibrillator) to the Margaret Fuller House. And though most of the patients we treat are MIT students or affiliates, often with minor medical complaints or injuries, we don’t operate as students on our calls: we have to be professionals.

Working on the ambulance can get very real. When Officer Sean Collier was shot in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings, our service responded. We respond to cardiac arrests, car accidents, and severe alcohol intoxication. We respond to suicide attempts and strokes. There is no escaping the reality of human lives outside of MIT’s insular culture when you work for MIT EMS.

I personally have had a few calls that completely removed me from the MIT bubble. I once transported a sick newborn, something I hope I

never have to do again. It is sometimes hard as an undergraduate to imagine a time when schoolwork might not dominate your life, but a family can. I can’t imagine the fear those parents felt as we drove their child to the hospital.

Even that call is not the one I think about the most. I mostly look back on the calls that took me furthest outside the world I know best. One of my first calls on the service was dispatched for “the man down,” who turned out to be experiencing a combined opioid and alcohol overdose. We got on scene, and I was immediately overwhelmed by the smell of stale beer and urine. The patient was unresponsive to our attempts to wake him, besides a brief “Who the (expletive) are you?” Immediately concerned with maintaining his airway, I was charged with suctioning vomit out of his mouth and throat.

**I thought the physically messy parts of being an EMT would be hardest — but I was wrong.**

I thought calls like those would be difficult. I thought the physically messy parts of being an EMT would be hardest — but I was wrong. My unconscious overdose patient did not weigh so much on me as a later patient did. He requested to go to a hospital in the afternoon because he had been drinking since the early morning. The patient was clearly confused and in pain. When asked why he had been drinking, his answer was: “It’s just what I do.” A myriad of other details about this call were depressing, but that line really got to me. All we could really do was bring this man to the hospital, but he’d only be discharged in a few hours. How do you cope when a patient needs so much more than you can give?

It’s easy to keep issues like addiction, homelessness and poverty at arm’s length when the ideas are abstract. But because of calls like these, debates in classes like Health Policy or researching candidates’ positions on the opioid crisis in New Hampshire can no longer be abstract. These issues are very real — and I’m grateful to EMS for popping the bubble.

*November 14-20 is National Collegiate EMS Week.*

## Too far to grieve

By Miranda McClellan

September 29, 2016

I had watched the scene unfold twice before. In the busy shuffle between classes and club meetings, the phone call comes. My friends learn that someone they loved has died, and by physical proximity, I am the first outsider to know.

Sarah’s phone call came after a 6.042 lecture. Her eyes welled with tears as her sister told her their grandfather passed away. I held her closely as she cried. I turned her away from the prying eyes of passing students in Stata and rubbed her head until she was ready to go home.

When I received news of my father’s passing last May, I did not want to “perform” my grief. Instead, I stopped psetting, had a

conversation with my sister over the phone, and walked back to my dorm before shedding a tear. I did not want to post carefully-crafted photo collages on social media, write paragraphs about what he meant to me, or force my grief to compete with final exam memes for likes. I did not want people to imagine me as a girl who mourns loudly, who allows emotion to overwhelm daily life.

Crafting an image of myself continuously wailing in sadness would be false. My life continued as planned: I returned to campus after the funeral, took two exams, and completed my 6.004 project. I flew to Seattle for an internship. I went hiking, ate food, and watched film festival movies. I talked about my dad’s antics as usual and only mentioned the death of my father

to one new person in the last week of my internship.

I hid my sadness in the same way I sheltered Sarah’s face from the public in the hall. Below my cheery surface, I harbored emotional moments: slipping out of the intern room to cry, being held by my boyfriend, giving myself headaches thinking about missed moments with my father, avoiding my mother’s anxious questions. In my private life, I was free to express my grief around close friends and to perform mounting chores necessary for the estate.

My friends and I are not the only ones. Everywhere on campus, people are mourning their loved ones. They need compassion and patience, but they are much less vocal than the people who mourn their grades. Their emotional con-

versations happen behind closed doors. In S^3, even trained professionals can be overwhelmed by the circumstances and feel the need to redirect you to a better-prepared person. So how can we prepare ourselves to support our friends when tragedy happens?

These are helpful things that people did for me, and things I wish I’d done for other people:

When something happens, call. Calling shows your commitment to listen and a willingness to take time out of your day. No one wants their grief to be just another passing theme in the group chat.

Explicitly ask people how they are doing and how their family is coping.

For the person experiencing loss, telling a group of people one at a time is exhausting, so let

other close friends know what happened.

Encourage them to be with family even if it means missing a week of class. If they can’t because of distance or price, offer to hang out more — relieve the pressure they feel to perform as though nothing is wrong. Don’t let your friends feel sad, lonely, and overstressed.

Keep checking up on them.

Mourning continues for months or years after the event, but we can easily forget someone else’s grief as we continue our own routines. Simple things like eating together, praying together, watching cat videos, or doing puzzles can ease a grieving soul. Create an environment for your friends such that no place is too far to properly grieve, because every place can be a home.



# Kyla Truman

December 8, 2016  
*Editor’s Note: Our Stories is a series by Natasha Joglekar, assisted by Andy Trattner, with photography provided by Prof. Daniel Jackson. Each story is a first person narrative of personal struggle and strength.*

My parents have struggled with substance abuse for as long as I can remember. My mom had me when she was 19. Both she and my dad tried to get clean for a little bit, but were largely unsuccessful. Pretty much my entire childhood, I didn’t see much of my parents. My dad and mom split up really early. My mom shuffled around. I am told that I was babysat a lot.

**Foster care is not a great place. There are families out there that genuinely care for the kids they take in, but there are also people who do the bare minimum to take care of kids and profit off the stipend.**

When I was five, my mom re-married and she had my little sister, Kyra. At that time, things were okay. A lot of times I took care of my sister. I would make us meals, which was often PB&J. When I had school, I would wake myself up in the morning and get ready and beg my step-dad to drive me to school. Often times he didn’t.

After my mom divorced my sister’s dad, we hopped around, staying with her friends and boy-friends. Things started to get pretty bad, as far as her addiction went. In particular, one boyfriend we lived with was definitely selling drugs out of the house. No one was watching my sister or me, and my mom and her boyfriend would be in a bedroom with the door closed

all day, with people going in and out. When you are that young, you don’t really see it as child neglect; you just deal with it.

My sister and I are very close. I tried to do everything I could to make her life a little easier. One Christmas Eve, my mom left, and I stayed up for hours waiting for her to come back and decorate the tree. My sister fell asleep, so I put her to bed, and afterward I decorated the tree myself and tried to find things of my own and put my sister’s name on it, as a makeshift present.

We started to get the cops called on our house. Every time the cops came, my mom, sister and I would hide in our garage and be very quiet. I didn’t understand what was going on, but my mom said if the cops caught us, they were going to take us away.

One day, when I was in the fourth grade, I was called to the office, and I was confused because I never got called to the office for behavior reasons. I went to the office and nervously stood outside the door. It was Child Protection Services (CPS). CPS checked me out from the school, and I got in the back of their car, and they drove for a really long time. They never told me where we were going or why, it was just really quiet. Our destination turned out to be a receiving home, which is where all the kids going into foster care go first, so they can check for signs of child abuse or drugs in our system. I was there for a while before my sister showed up. My sister was in tears and wearing one shoe. I found out later it was because the cops arrived at our house, while she was playing dress up in my shoes, and there was a struggle in which the shoe got left behind. The little things stick out a lot.

We bounced between four different foster homes. Foster care is not a great place. There are families out there that genuinely care for the kids they take in, but there are also people who do the bare minimum to take care of kids and profit off the stipend. We, unfortunately, got a lot of the latter. The first home we were in, my sister was sexually abused by the foster parent’s biological child. So we ended up getting moved pretty quickly. At

the next foster home, it was a lot of neglect. We would come home, and we would get a bowl of ramen for dinner, and then be in our room the rest of the night. We were only allowed to come out to use the bathroom.

**Most kids in the foster kid system don’t do well in school because there is no one encouraging them to and there are no resources.**

We were really fortunate that throughout this, we stayed together. Typically siblings in foster care get split up, and I honestly can’t imagine where we would be at now if we had. We moved a few more times, and the last foster home was close to my maternal grandparents. It was great that we got to have visits with my grandparents, and throughout this whole process, they had been fighting for custody, and eventually we were able to move in with them.

I was in sixth grade; it was a very big transition. They were much older and hadn’t parented in a very long time. Also, it felt like they had failed with their own kids, so they decided to be very strict with my sister and I. It was astronomically better than foster care, and we were very well taken care of. However, they would say things — “We don’t want you to end up like your mother” — or would bring up that they spent a lot of money on trying to get custody of us. It felt like they loved us and wanted us there, but when they said things like that, it made us question whether we were worth it.

We fought a lot because they didn’t like me to be involved with things outside of school. I was highly academically driven and wanted to be involved. I started researching what it takes to go to college in 8th grade. I knew I was smart and could do it, but I realized that being involved in extra-

curriculars is really important. I would look around at my peers whose parents were pushing them to get involved while I was fighting to be allowed to. I did what I could, and ended up applying to college through QuestBridge, which is for high-achieving, low-income high school students, to Stanford and MIT, and then applied to around 20 other schools. I knew I just needed to get in somewhere, so it was worth it for me to do all the applications. I was sitting down to dinner on my 18th birthday when I got the acceptance email from MIT. I couldn’t believe it was real.

As soon as I was 18, I moved out of my grandparent’s house, which was a tough decision to leave my sister, but she was well cared for there. I moved out because it was becoming increasingly difficult for me to be involved, and my mental health was suffering. I rented a room from an older woman that I took care of and also made a little bit of money.

In the spring, I got a financial stipend to come to CPW. It was surreal. I met my freshman year roommate, and she is still my best friend. I loved MIT, but I did not submit my acceptance until 10 minutes before it was due. I was nervous, my dad was still in and out of prison, but my mom had recently gone to a rehab program and got really involved in the church. She got a job at The Salvation Army, and started to get her life together. My mom wasn’t a parental figure anymore, but I still wanted to be around her. It was tough to think about moving across the country while my relationship with my mom was just starting to come back to life.

I have been financially independent since I moved out of my grandparents’ house. My sister now lives with my mom who met a guy at a recovery program meeting. They have been married for 4 years, and they just had a baby and are doing great. I love visiting them.

My childhood shaped me into an independent and ambitious person. I feel very driven to work hard and pursue whatever it takes to make my life better and break the cycle of drug abuse, alcoholism, and poverty. This year,

I helped start an organization on campus called CASE, to help address socioeconomic issues and intersectionality on campus. It sort of seems that once you get into MIT there is a happy ending, but it is hard not having financial or emotional support from family. At first I struggled socially, because I didn’t feel like I totally fit in here. I felt like my friends couldn’t relate to me. Starting CASE is my way of helping people talk about these issues and feel less alone.

**Kids and their issues are overlooked in foster care, and my plan is to try and change that.**

After graduation, I am going to work, but eventually I am hoping to go to medical school and study psychiatry. Ultimately, I want to start a nonprofit to provide mental health support, and job/college support to kids aging out of the foster system. It is a huge need. Most kids in the foster kid system don’t do well in school because there is no one encouraging them to and there are no resources. Typically kids age out of foster care and maybe they graduate high school, but mostly end up in low-paying jobs, and end up falling into the same cycle of drug and alcohol abuse. Things like depression, anxiety, and even PTSD are very prevalent. We are neglected and abused, and don’t feel worthy of attention or love from those who take care of us. Kids and their issues are overlooked in foster care, and my plan is to try and change that.

*Kyla Truman is a member of the Class of 2017.*

*There are many ways to find help. Members of the MIT community can access support resources at [resources.mit.edu/support](https://resources.mit.edu/support). To access support through MIT Medical’s Mental Health & Counseling Service, please call (617) 253-2916 or visit [medical.mit.edu](https://medical.mit.edu).*

*If you have a story you’d like to share, contact [ourstories@mit.edu](mailto:ourstories@mit.edu)*

# Reflections of a BSU Co-Chair

By Rasheed Auguste

May 5, 2016  
Every BSU Co-Chair pioneered at least one major innovation during their tenure, and I had no idea what mine would be. Then came the wave of events across college campuses such as the University of Missouri, Yale University, and Ithaca College. I felt exposed as the MIT bubble burst and the real world slipped in — social media posts of personal friends now mirrored national news headlines. This wave hit a bit too close to home.

The BSU Political Action Committee (PAC) decided to respond with solidarity. We organized a photo for a “Blackout at MIT.” I was proud of MIT as folks gathered in Lobby 10 dressed in black on short notice, despite the drizzle, and stood silently for a photo.

Unexpectedly, an email from President Reif dinged into my inbox, asking to meet with executive board members of the BSU and Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA). It was validating to vent to the President of MIT about microaggressions, the pressure to defy stereotypes, and the seemingly numb indifference of our campus. His message was clear: “I [and by extension MIT] care deeply about the well-being of minority students.”

He left us with a call to action:

“Is there any way you can send me a list of things I can help you with?” I brought the story to my best friend and fellow Chocolate City brother Alberto Hernandez, the BSU PAC, and the minority community (via email).

After some digging, Alberto found a report from January 2010 containing some ICEO recommendations from 2015, and interestingly enough, a cover letter by Reif himself. Why had MIT gone to such lengths to commission a study on the advancement of diversity and inclusion and not implemented all the institute-specific solutions, twice? The plot thickened.

**At times, I was afraid I had lost sight of the big picture.**

We referenced the two reports as we revised our list into recommendations. Alberto presented the unfinished list to the rest of the Committee on Race and Diversity (CRD). Afterwards, he was charged up. “Bro, we gotta make sure the things we ask for are feasible, specific to MIT, and someone will actually be responsible for making them happen!”

The next few days, we started playing Infinite Corridor pinball.

Between classes, Alberto and I bounced from office to office and asked MIT staff, faculty, and students how to make sure specific recommendations would be most effective. Many meetings ensued:

Lydia Snover (Institutional Research) offered snacks with her decades of expertise in creating insightful surveys.

Dean Melissa Nobles (SHASS) told us of the wealth of existing classes that cover themes of diversity and inclusion.

Dean Stu Schmill ’86 (Admissions and Financial Aid) filled us in on financial aid and minority recruitment efforts.

The PAC gave a more formal presentation on these recommendations to groups such as the BGSA, Latino Cultural Center, and LBGT@MIT.

The BSU, BGSA, Black Alumni at MIT recommendations were still unfinished when Professor Bertschinger emailed us and the BGSA, asking us to formally present them to Academic Council, the most senior leadership council at MIT. Gulp.

At the meeting, administration was encouragingly supportive. Vice President Kirk Kolenbrander went so far as to say, “Over the course of my career at MIT, there have been a few moments when I have said to myself, ‘This is going to be really important for changing the future of MIT.’ Your presenta-

tion to Academic Council was one of them.”

With this in mind, the Black Students’ Union List of Recommendations for MIT Administration went public on December 9, 2016, complete with a .mit.edu URL

**MIT has the opportunity to become the example for diversity and inclusion efforts in research environments and higher education.**

and News Office story.

Afterward, we worked with many offices to implement solutions. Chancellor Barnhart worked with Alberto, Lydia Snover’s office, and I to expand questions on diversity and inclusion into Institute-wide surveys. MIT Mental Health hired a full-time mental health clinician specializing in the African Diaspora. Department heads of math, physics, and history started writing commitments to health, diversity, and inclusion.

At times, I was afraid I had lost

sight of the big picture. Professor Wes Harris asked, “What is MIT supposed to look like when the recommendations are addressed?” I still struggle to answer this question substantively. Professor Harris also warned Alberto and me, “I’ve seen students lose their minds over this. Make sure you take care of yourself.”

After all, they say MIT is a journey, but this year felt more like a voyage. Commissioned by President Reif himself, we set out on S.S. Recommendations. The sails were driven by gusts of MIT community feedback, waves were filled with self-doubt, and our trusty crew comprised friends, supporting staff, and faculty. Navigating through new spaces and working with new people left us with invaluable communication skills that could not be learned in a classroom. All this time, we struck a difficult balance between hard work and self-care.

My mother says, “You gotta love people where they’re at.” As MIT is swiftly moving to address the BSU recommendations and more, I remember her words to remind myself to advocate for collaboration across all levels, not negotiation. MIT has the opportunity to become the example for diversity and inclusion efforts in research environments and higher education. I look forward to fall 2016, eagerly waiting for what we, MIT, do next.



